

Title 30: Professions and Occupations

Part 2201: Licensed Professional Counselors, Board of Examiners of

Chapter 4: Licensure Requirements

Rule 4.2: Education Requirements

The following is a list of education requirements that all applicants must meet in order to be licensed:

- A. A doctoral degree primarily in counseling, guidance, or a related counseling field, an educational specialist's degree or master's degree in counselor education or a related counseling program. The degree must be from a regionally or nationally accredited college or university program and is subject to Board approval.
- B. Sixty (60) semester hours or ninety (90) quarter hours of graduate study.
- C. A graduate program related to counselor education is defined as one that contains course work in all of the following areas. Each applicant must have completed a three (3) hour semester course or its equivalent in each of the following areas:
 - 1. Human Growth and Development – Course work includes studies that provide a broad understanding of the nature and needs of individuals at all levels of development, normal and abnormal human behavior, personality theory, life-span theory, and learning theory within cultural contexts. Emphasis is placed on psychological approaches used to explain, predict, and modify human behavior.
 - 2. Social and Cultural Foundations – Course work includes studies that provide a broad understanding of societal changes and trends in human roles, societal subgroups, social mores and interaction patterns multicultural and pluralistic trends in differing lifestyles, and major societal concerns including stress, person abuse, substance abuse, discrimination, and methods for alleviating these concerns.
 - 3. Helping Relationships – Course work includes studies that provide a broad understanding of philosophic bases of helping processes, counseling theories and their applications, basic and advanced helping skills, consultation theories and their application, client and helper self-understanding and self-development, and facilitation of client or consultee change.
 - 4. Groups – Course work includes studies that provide a broad understanding of group development, dynamics, and counseling theories; group leadership styles; basic and advanced group counseling methods and skills; and other group approaches.
 - 5. Lifestyle and Career Development – Course work includes studies that provide a broad understanding of career development theories; occupational and educational information sources and systems; career and leisure counseling guidance and

education; lifestyle and career decision-making; career development program planning resources and effectiveness evaluation.

6. Appraisal – Course work includes studies that provide a broad understanding of group and individual educational and psychometric theories and approaches to appraisal, data, and information gathering methods, validity and reliability, psychometric statistics, factors, influencing appraisals, and use of appraisal results in helping process. Additionally, the specific ability to administer and interpret tests and inventories to assess interests and abilities and to identify career options is important.
7. Research and Evaluation – Course work includes studies that provide a broad understanding of different types of research, basic statistics, research-report development, research implementation, program evaluation needs assessment, publication of research information, and legal considerations.
8. Professional Orientation – Course work includes studies that provide a broad understanding of professional roles and functions of counselors, professional goals and objectives, professional counseling organizations and associations, professional history and trends, ethical and legal standards, professional standards, and professional credentialing.

Note: Beginning July 1, 2003, each applicant must also have completed course work in the following areas:

9. Marriage and/or Family Counseling/Therapy – Course work includes studies that provide a broad understanding of marriage and family theories and approaches to counseling with families and couples. This includes appraisal of family and couples systems and the application of these counseling families and/or couples in pre-marriage, marriage and/or divorce situations.
 10. Diagnosis and Treatment – Course work includes studies that provide a broad understanding of individuals' current mental/emotional states consistent with accepted classifications such as those provided in the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, as published by the American Psychiatric Association; and the ICD---10-CM and the development of planned, diagnosed – relevant interventions, including the goals of counseling, methods of treatment, and means of monitoring progress.
- D. Individuals applying for licensure with a graduate degree of less than sixty (60) semester hours or ninety (90) quarter hours may complete the additional course work required without earning an additional degree. All graduate counselor education courses or counselor related courses from an approved educational institution completed by the applicant may be counted toward the sixty (60) semester hours or ninety (90) quarter hour's requirement.
- E. Courses completed by applicants that were not part of a counselor education or related counseling graduate program are evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine applicability.

- F. All applicants must provide official transcripts of all graduate work. Unopened official transcripts may be submitted in the application packet or may be submitted to the Board directly from the approved educational institution.

Source: Miss. Code Ann. § 73-30-9 (Rev. 2008)